

CLAIMS.

1. An adaptable world interface including a graphical user interface (GUI), support hardware, and software for maintaining personal access to services, information and entertainment from audio-visual channels, communications channels, and the like over a long period, even if the individual becomes disabled *characterised in that* the means includes an adaptable GUI menu capable of displaying (a) a variety of presented levels of complexity, any one level of which may be selected from time to time according to the individual's level, and (b) a consistent spatial layout regardless of the currently presented level of complexity, a selected GUI host device capable of presenting the menu to the user, at least one adaptable means for accepting at least one actuating command from the user, at least one operable device capable of being controlled by the GUI host device in response to an actuating command, and an output device capable of displaying the audio-visual channels, communications channels, and the like so that an individual of any level of capability is able to comprehend a compatible GUI menu and operate the system control interface, the adaptability giving the individual an opportunity of becoming accustomed to the invention over a period prior to a possible onset of disability.
2. An adaptable world interface as claimed in claim 1, *characterised in that* the at least one operable device comprises a set-top box (STB); the STB being capable of selecting at least one channel of information and entertainment for personal access by the individual.
3. An adaptable world interface as claimed in claim 1, *characterised in that* the operable device is provided with means for communicating with at least one appliance connected to the operable device.
4. An adaptable world interface as claimed in claim 1, *characterised in that* the individual's responses are received by ability-scalable means capable of being altered according to the level of capability of the individual, so that an individual of any level of ability is able to control the system.
5. A GUI menu for an adaptable world interface as claimed in claim 1, *characterised in that* the menu is presented to the individual in visual form by an output hardware device, the menu is designed so that a view of a portion of the menu includes information locating that view within the whole, the menu is laid out in a spatially consistent manner in which a plurality of items are displayed in consistent positions (if present), regardless of level of complexity, and the menu is viewed through a virtual window, the

- 865 size of which may be altered according to the level of capability of the individual, so that
an individual of lower level is not confused yet an individual of higher level is not
frustrated.
6. A GUI menu for an adaptable world interface as claimed in 5 *characterised in that* the
menu has an appearance comprising a number of curved limbs, each festooned with at
870 least zero icons, each representing an item.
7. A GUI menu for an adaptable world interface as claimed in 5 *characterised in that* the
menu is presented to the individual in audible form, and the one or more actuating
commands are created by the individual in audible form.
8. An adaptable world interface according to claim 1 for linking one or more persons with a
875 health services provider, *characterised in that* the means includes a GUI, together with
hardware for personal health status data collection, in order to facilitate health consulta-
tions remotely, so that community health services may be made more proactive.
9. An adaptable world interface according to claim 1 for supplying one or more persons
with audiovisual material, *characterised in that* at least some of the material is collated
880 by electronic programme gathering means so that the individual can enjoy the material
without having to pursue the material on a programme-by-programme basis.
10. Means for linking one or more persons with an audiovisual channel provider, *charac-*
terised in that at least one channel of audiovisual material is brought to the operable
device as claimed in claim 1, and the at least one channel carries material relevant to the
885 persons in the dwelling, so that the persons are supplied with relevant audiovisual
material.
11. A method for providing a person having a level of disability and/or a level of compe-
tence with an adaptable world interface *characterised in that* the method includes the
steps of (a) assessing the person's current level of disability and current level of compe-
890 tence, (b) selecting an appropriate GUI and GUI host in combination, (c) configuring the
GUI to match the assessed level of current level of disability and current level of compe-
tence, (d) selecting an appropriate user control device, and (d) verifying from time to
time that the person's current level of disability and current level of competence is still
matched by the configuration of the GUI and GUI host, so that the person can operate
895 the adaptable world interface with some confidence.